



c.44.6 : Regent Street

1898 06 03

The Cambridge YWCA, having found its old quarters growing too small and inadequate to its requirements has obtained Geneva House, Regent Street, and there established its head-quarters. Yesterday a meeting was convened at which the Vice Chancellor of the university presided and spoke. He said that the new premises were in every way more suited to the needs of the Association. In their new house the windows of the back rooms, which he fancied would be those most used by the young women, overlooked his garden, and he was unable to disabuse himself of an idea they would keep an eye on him. The Master of Trinity then rose. He said he had known nothing of the removal, and had been ignorant of the nature of the gathering he was to address. He did not like to trust his eyes, which were not of the best. He had never in all his experience known an educational establishment change its quarters without bettering itself

1898 12 02

Regent Street sewer subsidence, p2

1900

1900 03 16

Mr W. Farren of Regent Street, Cambridge, has received a fine specimen of the dog otter, which was killed near Upware. It weighs 24lbs and is on view in the window of his shop.

1900 09 11

Cambridge magistrates gave their decision in the cases against certain tradespeople who had been summoned for obstructing the public footpaths by means of overhanging blinds. A regulation had been issued by the police that sun blinds must hang not lower than six feet from the kerb. Ellen Frohock, R.R. Dawson and Alfred Hyman of Regent Street were fined 1s. each

1901 03 08

Miss W—of Regent Street, Cambridge was summoned for causing an obstruction by leaving some refuse tins in the street. P.C. Cole said he saw the tins outside her premises at 10.11 pm and they were still there at one o'clock the next morning. She said she placed the rubbish outside overnight because the scavenger came so early in the morning – 6.35am - before she was up. The Chief Constable said something had to be done to stop the practice of putting pails of rubbish out overnight. The defendant was cautioned and dismissed.

1902 02 07

The memorial window to the late Mr James Hough is now complete and the church of St Benedict is in possession of a work of art which will be a constant reminder of a Christian life. It is a three-light stained glass window immediately over the altar, designed by Arthur Savell of London and Regent Street, Cambridge.

1902 02 26

How often is the extremely low-priced machine a pitfall and a snare to the unwary novice. Glittering plate and enamel make it as attractive as the more reliable cycle, but also serve to hide a crowd of defects. The sensible cyclist knows that good value can only be obtained in one way and Messrs J. Howes and son of Regent Street, Cambridge have proved that good value is the foundation of good business. Their own bicycle, the Granta, is a fine piece of workmanship constructed with the greatest care. Now that the free wheel has come to stay, brakes have become absolutely essential.

1903 07 17

A milliner carrying on business in Regent Street, Cambridge was summonsed under the Factory Acts. When an Inspector visited the workshop the occupier, who could only legally have ten people in the room because of the size, had as a matter of fact employed 11. She told one, Hilda Redding, to go out of the work-room, to prevent the Inspector from seeing there were more present than there ought to have been. The case was as bad as it could be. A fine of £1 was imposed.

1903 07 23 c

Sir – Being engaged in preparing a list of the Cambridgeshire mammals for the Victoria County History I should be very grateful for any local specimens of mice or bats, or notes relating to the mammalia of the district. Specimens may be left with Mr W. Farren, Regent Street, Cambridge – J. Lewis Bonhote, Ditton Hall.

1903 11 21

A growing demand for the stone, marble and granite objects with which the memory of the dead are perpetuated indicates an expansion of business for those who provide these melancholy tokens. Messrs Ivett and Reed have found their premises on Mill Road and Regent Street inadequate and have opened a new branch on Newmarket Road, appropriately near the new cemetery. The premises consist of a dwelling house and show-room and are built of Bath stone with a portico supported by two graceful Corinthian pillars. Inside is a chimney-piece of statuary marble upon which delicate-looking foliage is represented in the Italian style.

1912 01 19

Thomas Askham was one of the oldest and best-known of Cambridge tradesmen. As a young man he worked for Thomas Hunnybun, the coach builder of Sidney Street, and then founded the coach builder businesses on Newmarket Road, Regent Street and a house in London. But as the motor industry grew, there was less for him to do and he had to employ fewer men. Jointly with Mr Tudor, he built the Hippodrome on Auckland Road, of which he was proprietor at his death. Before the era of the picture palace this place of amusement was exceedingly popular and provided many with healthy enjoyment who would otherwise have been walking the street. 12 01 19c

1912 02 02

A new County Hall is needed. The existing clerk, a solicitor in private practice, works from his own office. The Education and Medical departments are on opposite sides of Sidney Street, the Finance Clerk in is Regent Street, the Architect in Hobson Street and the Surveyor in Hills Road. This is inconvenient and uneconomical and leads to inefficiency. 12 02 02h

1912 05 31

The landlord of the Dog and Pheasant Inn, Old Chesterton told police that four bagatelle balls had been stolen from the taproom of the pub. Inquiries showed that a Fen Ditton man who'd been drinking there had offered some balls for sale next morning. He claimed to have bought them three weeks earlier from a man named 'Capp' against the Corn Exchange, saying he'd paid tenpence and a pint for them. A dealer in Regent Street said he'd bought them for eight shillings and sixpence – though the accused said he'd only got one-and-six. The landlady identified them as the ones stolen. 12 05 31f

1912 06 28

The Unemployment Insurance Scheme provides for payment of contributions by all employers and workpeople in certain trades and for the payment of benefit to the workpeople when unemployed. In Cambridge it will be administered by the Labour Exchange in Regent Street who are distributing leaflets. The scheme covers house building, railway construction and shipbuilding – but this also covers local boat builders – while 'vehicle construction' will include people repairing cars and bicycles. 12 06 28f

1912 08 23

Youths and children clustered closely to the lorry from which Mrs Brailsford was speaking to the crowds on Parker's Piece; they pushed it six inches in one direction, then a foot back. The crowd moved with it. Then it was pushed right across towards Park Terrace. She thanked the boys for the nice ride and picked up her speech exactly where she'd left it. The lads then pushed her into the middle of a cricket match before a policeman chained up one of the back wheels. Later they scrambled on to the lorry and tore up the 'Votes for Women' papers. "For a University town, it is absolutely disgraceful, I never had such a thing happen before, not even in Whitechapel", she said before heading down Regent Street followed by a crowd, booing and shouting 12 08 23i

1912 12 27

Robert Farren, the well-known Cambridge artist, died at Highgate. Farren, who was born in Cambridge about 80 years ago, lived in Cambridge all his life with the exception of a few years' residence at Scarborough until August last when he went to live in Highgate. He was a very clever water colour artist but best known for his work in oils and his etchings. His fen pictures were well-known and his series of etchings of cathedral cities amongst his most famous work. He also produced fine etchings of the Cambridge Greek plays. His 'Degree Day' was published as a photo by Wm Farren when he lived in Rose Crescent. Farren loved to paint Cambridge & Cambridgeshire scenery and there is scarcely a picturesque 'bit' in the town or county that has not been reproduced by him. At one time he had his studios at the top of which are now the University offices but were formerly a Liberal Club. A good many years ago he resided at Mayfield, Hills Road but during the last three years lived at no.1 Station Road. In his younger days he was a very handsome figure, tall and well-built. He was a skilful fencer and attained some note as a geologist. He married Miss Mason, a Cambridge lady and had a family of 14 children, none of whom are now living in Cambridge, his only relatives being his nephew William Farren, the naturalist, of Regent Street and his brother. Two of his daughters have inherited their father's artistic skill in no small degree. The funeral will take place at Old Chesterton churchyard where his wife is buried. – 12 12 20bb # c.63 Robert Farren's funeral at Old Chesterton. Three children of his eldest son, the late Ernest Farren live with their mother in Herbert Street 12 12 27b

1913 07

Patent F.T. Vine, Regent Street advertising

1914 06 12

A new pump has just been placed on the Orwell Road at Barrington by Mr Edward Conybeare who has always taken a great interest in the water supply of the village. Residents in the lower part have hitherto been obliged to go some distance for their water. The pump is the fourth and finest that he has presented to the village. Constructed by Mr H. Newton of Regent Street, Cambridge, it is of lead with a case of oak. There is a rest for buckets under the spout and the water drains off into a ditch near by
1914 06 12 p12

1914 07 10

Bradley's teeth: 27 years steadily increasing reputation. Time has proved Bradley's Teeth to be satisfactory right from the beginning. If you require Artificial Teeth send for a free book to F.W. Bradley who attends at Llandaff Chambers, 4 Regent Street on Mondays and Saturdays. Also at Thompson's chemist Fore Hill Ely, W.H. Clayton's saddler Huntingdon, G.A. Smith's St Ives and Bobby's chemists at Soham: advertisement

1914 11 27

The Hospitality Committee for Belgian refugees has equipped four houses in which 55 refugees have been accommodated. They are 'Scotsdale' on Grantchester Rd where a Flemish priest has been lodged with nine members of his family and 'South House' Barton Road which houses 14 members of doctor's family. A young lace maker and a family of eight from Louvain lodges at No.4 West View Newnham while at [No.11 Brookside there are 22 refugees from Malines and Ostend. In Regent Street a studio has been converted into a fair-sized reading room where Dutch, French and English papers are supplied. * & p5 14 11 27

1919 09 24

Tar and Feather Court Martial. Sentence was promulgated at Cambridge on Saturday in the recent "Tar and Feathering" court martial. The court found Lt. Wright guilty of the offence and sentenced him to be reprimanded. Lt. Wright, who received a message over the phone from the A.P.M. that the finding of the court had been sent on from Eastern Command, arrived at the A.P.M. offices in Regent Street about midday. In the presence of Major Minchener, O.C., 6th Company, Royal Fusiliers (to which company Lt. Wright was attached for the purpose of the court martial) the finding of the court was read out by Major Braithwaite-Wallis. Both officers shook hands with Lt. Wright, who expressed himself very satisfied with the result. He said later: "From beginning to end the tar and feathering cost me £12. I have never spent £12 so satisfactorily."
19 09 24

1920

1920 11 17

Regent Street shops feature, photo, advertisement – 20 11 17b & 20 11 24a , 20 11 17d

1921 05 25

H. Leavis of Regent St, piano dealer, dies following road smash – 21 05 25e

1924 04 03

A constables passing Messrs H. Leavis' pianoforte warehouse, Regent Street, Cambridge noticed signs of fire. The whole of the upper floor of Messrs Constable's stained glass works was gutted and the glass cracked and popped. Messrs Leavis' premises seem to have suffered from the effects of water. Pianos & portions of pianos, undamaged by fire were surrounded by pools of dirty water, drops of which fell with a monotonous splash from the ceiling.

1924 04 26

The new showroom of Messrs Herbert Robinson Ltd, Regent Street, Cambridge was formally opened. There is room for the display of 15 cars at a time, and those at present on view include such well known makes as Vauxhall, Fiat, Hillman, Citroen, Daimler and Calthorpe, all of the latest type.

Demonstration runs will be given, with no obligation to buy. They will take your present motor car in part exchange for a new one, and arrange deferred payments if you wish.

1926 03 11

The Bankruptcy court was told a woman had taken the Glengarry Hotel, Regent Street, Cambridge, in January 1921. It was entirely a licensed University lodging house for the students of Downing College only and continued so until 1924. It had not been successful owing to the college being unable to fill all the rooms. Subsequently she converted it into a private commercial hotel and made a profit of about £2 a week. The major part of the deficiency arose while it was a lodging house.

1926 03 26

Regent Street widening, p6

1926 12 16

It may not be generally known to the Cambridge public that Mr Carne, the manager of the Playhouse, Mill Road, is the "Victor Carne" who figures in the record list of the Vocalion Gramophone Co. He has recorded "The Holy City" and "The Star of Bethlehem" for their Christmas list and these and other of his records are obtainable at Messrs Leavis's, Regent Street. Wireless enthusiasts will no doubt remember the many times he has sung from London and Daventry.

1927 05 30

Buses are taking people right through Regent Street into the town and, once there, they make their purchases at the nearest shop. Now Regent Street tradesmen have organised a shopping week & made their windows more than usually attractive. They claim to be the "Street of Specialists' Traders" & boast the only taxidermist in Cambridge and many more lady hairdressers than any other street. A slogan is being used: "You get what you want and want what you get in Regent Street"

1927 09 07

A "rag" by four Cambridge undergraduates in Bedford has cost them the suspension of the degrees (the gaining of which they were celebrating) for six months. A constable in Regent Street, Cambridge saw the defendants at two o'clock in the morning 'larking about' with a lifebuoy and notice board belonging to Bedford Military Band. They regretted what they had done; this kind of thing might be all right in Cambridge, where it was understood, but that it would not be tolerated in Bedford. It was within the power of the college authorities, in the event of them being convicted of a felony, to prohibit them from taking their degrees at all which would be a lifetime penalty and debar them from taking any post under the Government - in the Civil Service, Army or Navy.

1927 10 04

Theophilus Philip Starke, a boot and shoe maker, told magistrates that two men called at his shop in Regent Street, Cambridge, and said they had come about the sun blind, which needed repair. They borrowed a ladder and appeared to do the work. He paid them 25 shillings but his suspicions were aroused by the way they "scuttled off". The blind was examined by an expert who found practically nothing had been done to it

1928 03 22

Sir – May I draw attention to a new form of pastime which should be nipped in the bud before some fatality is recorded. I refer to the increasing practice of boys using roller skates in the streets and on the pavements. This afternoon two lads were careering along Regent Street amongst the traffic. Other towns have already taken action to put a stop to this new boyish craze and it is to be hoped that Cambridge will do likewise – "Safety First"

1928 05 18

In the spring a motorist's fancy turned to the thought of a new car and the Cambridge public have the opportunity of inspecting the whole range produced by the well-known Vauxhall firm. These are attractively displayed in the spacious showroom of Messrs Herbert Robinson & Son, Regent Street.

The staff has been augmented with chauffeurs, salesmen, mechanics and service engineers under the charge of the assistant car sales manager of Vauxhall Motors. The models on view include the Princeton tourer, £475; Bedford saloon, £495 and Kimpton coach-built sports saloon, £695

1928 12 11

Cambridge councillors considered the provision of a car to replace the Ford at present used in the Highways Department. They agreed to transfer the Austin used by the Borough Surveyor and authorise him to obtain prices for the purchase of a new car. Subsequently he submitted estimates for a new Austin in part exchange for the old Ford car from Messrs Marshall & Co, Jesus Lane (£285.2s) and Herbert Robinson, Regent Street (£276). They are to accept the Robinson's offer

1929 01 12

The Wolseley 16/45 h.p. 'Silent Six' is the finest two-litre six-cylinder car that money and experienced have ever succeeded in producing. Its silence, smoothness and rapid acceleration are really wonderful. It is vibrationless from 6 to 60 mph. Let us give you a trial run – we shall be pleased to do so. Tourer £365. Saloon, £375. Authorised main distributors – E.T. Saint & Co. Ltd, Regent Street, Cambridge. – advert

1929 09 23

An outbreak of window scratching has occurred in Cambridge over the weekend. Shopkeepers along St Andrew's Street discovered with disgust that scratches and scrawls which had not been there when the shops closed. On some of the windows grooves have been cut, apparently with a diamond. Among the worst affected are Johnson Bros dyers, Flack and Judge grocers, G.P. Hawkins confectioners and the Ideal Cleaning Company. Marks of a previous outbreak of a more serious nature are still to be seen on many shop windows in Regent Street, p8

1929 12 30

Regent Street bus traffic, p5

1930

1930 10 23

Herbert Robinson, the motor engineer told the court he had purchased the leasehold of 'The Fountain' pub, Regent Street, Cambridge from the Star Brewery intending to add the site to his business premises. He granted the lease to a landlord for five years with a provision that he could regain possession earlier and now wanted it back. 30 10 23a-c

1930 11 04

In a quiet street in Cambridge, a very charming old lady celebrates her 100th birthday. She is Mrs Howes, widow of the late John Howes head of the bicycle firm in Regent Street. She comes of a long-lived family. She was born in Coronation Street. Her father, John Galley, a reader at the Pitt Press, lived to the age of 86 and her mother to 80. She has still living four sons and three daughters, 23 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Her memory is still good and she has vivid memories of her girlhood. She was present at the dinner on Parker's Piece to celebrate Queen Victoria's coronation, when her father was one of the carvers. 30 11 04b

1933 02 09

Cambridge has lost an old-established tailor by the death of Mr Byron Thomas Wait of Mill Road. His father was a tailor at St Ives but Byron came to Cambridge 52 years ago and opened the shop in Hills Road. Thirty-five years ago he extended the business to the shop at 28 Mill Road and four years later to 100 Regent Street. Two of his sons are carrying on the business. 33 02 09b

1933 06 15

David John Scott had been engaged in photographic work all his business life. He first started in 1884 in partnership with Mr Wilkinson at 47, St Andrew's Street. They bought an existing business for £300 and traded for five or seven years before the partnership was dissolved and he bought Wilkinson

out. About September 1932 he had to leave those premises and remove to 59 Regent Street, which affected the business. Trade had declined and people were not having their photographs taken as much as they used to. 33 06 15c

1933 09 21

Herbert Robinson opened a small shop in Regent Street, 30 years ago, where he commenced selling Premier bicycles. Today his extensive new garage occupies the site of Llandaff Chambers and the old Fountain Inn. It embraces motorcars, motor cycles, bicycles, baby carriages, wireless and gramophones and features a turntable for cars and an overhead runway which enables parts to be conveyed from one side to another. 33 09 21

1933 10 17

New Fountain inn plans, Regent Street – 33 10 17

1935 08 28

Regent Street traffic congestion during roadworks – photo – 35 08 28

1936 03 23

Unilateral parking came into force in Cambridge on Saturday. Between Regent Street and the Old Post Office parking is now allowed for 15 minutes in any one hour on one side of the road on even dates and on the other side on odd. There is one short stretch against Emmanuel Street in which no parking is allowed, owing to the difficulty of traffic coming in and out of the town through this narrow street. Readers should remember they cannot now leave their cars for any longer than 15 minutes as this is the limit. 36 03 23b

1936 04 18

The work of pulling down and building up in Cambridge goes merrily on. Anyone revisiting the town after only a few years' absence must be amazed at the remarkable changes taking place from the old Post Office to the Catholic Church. In a few years this will form the most important and best shopping centre in Cambridge. Now no.14 Regent Street, which was built at the end of the 18th century, will be pulled down by Messrs Herbert Robinson to make an extension of their business. This will mean a further improvement in the building line with a consequent street widening. 36 04 18b

1936 06 22

The landlord of The Oak in Lensfield Road was awakened by a terrible crash which shook the whole property. He found a Winston Smith van imbedded in the woodwork. It had been crossing the junction with Regent Street and Hills Road at about 4 a.m. when another van ran into it swinging it right round and smashing it backwards into the wooden wall of the pub. At this time of the morning the traffic lights are off and it is against the law to sound a horn or hooter. 36 06 22

1937 06 01

The King of Egypt arrived in Cambridge on the first visit he has paid to the town. He had been expected at Clare College at about six o'clock but was late as he'd waited for His mother, the Queen, who'd booked a suite at the University Arms Hotel. The King strolled about Regent Street and visited Barbara Fuller's dog shop where he purchased a wire fox terrier puppy which he played with in the college. Very few people knew of his visit which was to meet Egyptian students. About twenty were introduced to him, many being members of the Pharaohs Club. 37 06 01b

1937 09 17

Plans to demolish Newmarket houses under clearance orders were met with objections. The Medical Officer said houses in the Queen Street area were unfit for human habitation. But the owner claimed they were better now than when she bought them; they were all she had to live on and the council were going to take them away. Houses in Regent Street were somewhat dark because of the shrubbery in the churchyard but occupants were able to open the windows. One of the residents had been there 23 years and had brought up ten healthy children. There was such a shortage of accommodation that

two families were living in each council house and few houses at a rent of six shillings a week (£16.70 today) suitable for old people. 37 09 17a & b

1937 12 30

Regent Street café owner unable pay Peak's furniture which sold Cooper – 37 12 30

1938 11 26

Collins' Agency, High-Class Registry for Servants at 55 Regent Street has been established in Cambridge for over 28 years and now has offices in Bridge Street, at Peterborough and Chelmsford. The extent of the business is shown by the fact that in 1937 more than 1,500 ladies were suited with maids in spite of the great dearth of servants. Collins' Agency advertisements regularly appear in Cambridge newspapers 38 11 26

1938 11 29

Mayfair, Cambridge's new fashion specialist opened its salon at 75 Regent Street, transforming an empty shop into a revelation of smartness and beauty. Mannequins displayed a collection of the loveliest prevailing fashions comprising a galaxy of dresses grave and gay, day and evening gowns, tailored suits and winter coats. They will supply only exclusive models with special attention to smart styles for the fuller figure. 38 11 29

1939 10 09

The majority of basements in Cambridge are useless as public air raid shelters since they need to be capable of holding between 50 and 100 people. But those at Herbert Robinson's Garage in Regent Street, Zion Baptist Church, Mr Wheatley's in Sturton Street and Potts' Mineral Water Works in Castle Street are suitable. However these are not enough and shelters should be constructed in various areas. They will be of brick and concrete and accommodate 50 people. Shelters in schools should be available for the public during the night and at week-ends. 39 10 09a

1939 10 27

Hitler's bombs will have no effect on the air raid shelter in the basement of Herbert Robinson's garage in Regent Street which is not only the largest in Cambridge but impregnable even from a direct hit. It has three steel reinforced floors above the actual basement which comprise the shelter. Experts say that even if the first or second floors were damaged by a direct hit from a bomb, people sheltered would still be immune. It comprises 6,000 square feet and has accommodation for over 700 people 39 10 27a

1940

1940 04 09

Airmen marching in Regent Street wearing gas masks – photo – 40 04 09

1940 09 06

Salvationists' Diamond Wedding. Two Salvation Army veterans who took part in Cambridge's first Army open-air service, celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on Wednesday. They are Mr. and Mrs. F. Gillson, of 67 Mill Road, now staying at 12 St. Phillip's Road, Cambridge, who were married in St. Matthew's Church at 8 o'clock on September 4. 1880. "There was no such thing as confetti in those days," Mrs. Gillson said. "They threw rice, which stung your face." Mr. Gillson is 80 years old and his wife 78, and they can remember clearly their first march through Cambridge as Salvationists. "The Norwich band came here to be present at the opening of the Cambridge Corps about 55 years ago," said Mr. Gillson. "My wife and I met the band at the station, and marched through Regent Street, St. Andrew's Street, Hobson Street, King Street and the Causeway, finishing up at Sturton Town Hall. We got a hiding for our pains, too. We were pelted with clods of earth from Butt Green, and one enterprising person threw an old cat at us. The police had been told to stop us holding an open-air meeting. We held it, all the same, in Hobson Street, by walking very slowly, singing all the time. Our main meeting was held at Sturton Town Hall." Mr. and Mrs.

Gillson have stuck to the Army through thick and thin. It was popular at first to manhandle the "Sallies" and on one occasion they were besieged by a crowd of students in their citadel. 40 09 06

1941 10 09

Clement Attlee sees war work factory at Robinson's premises, Regent Street – photo – 41 10 09

1947 10 09

Rotary & town planning – East Road & Regent Street, p5

1949 05 18

The Humber Hawk, newest car to come off the production line, is one of a group of cars and lorries displayed at Messrs Herbert Robinson's garage, Regent Street, Cambridge in their first show since the war ended. Other types include the Humber Pullman Super Snipe, Sunbeam-Talbot 90 and Hillman Minx. If you care to put your name on the end of about 600 other people you might get your new car in a few years time! Meanwhile, until new cars become more plentiful we must be satisfied just with looking at them through such shows

1949 10 01

On a cold evening in 1889, the secretaries of a dozen local cricket clubs and a few enthusiasts met at Dan Hayward's "The Prince Regent" in Regent St, Cambridge. Thus was sown the seed that was to grow into the stature of the Cambridgeshire Cricket Association. Last night, 60 years later, a gathering numbering more than 170 celebrated at a dinner at the Dorothy Café. Among them was England's and Cambridge's Jack Hobbs, still ranked by many as the world's finest batsman.

1950

1950 05 12

When Stetchworth Dairies roundsman, Mr John Shorter, came out of a house in Downing Street he found his milk van had vanished. The horse had taken fright at noise from building operations and bolted at full gallop. Despite heavy traffic the horse swerved round the corner into St Andrew's Street, missed five motor cars and a bus by inches, and continued at a gallop towards Regent Street. Mr John Higgins cycled after the runaway, seized the bridles and gradually gained control over the horse and forced it to a standstill beyond the University Arms Hotel. Mr Higgins, not a young man, was handicapped by a heavy box of plants on the front of his cycle and his prompt and plucky action exhausted him

1954 01 01

A building in Cambridge that probably started life as a private house has just been rejuvenated at a cost of several thousand pounds. Number 70 Regent Street will be remembered as the wholesale warehouse formerly used by Barwells, the tyre company. It is now the Co-operative Permanent Building Society, a luxurious block of offices with the latest in equipment and a full-length plate glass window, complete with neon sign. In the past Cambridge has been neglected by building societies. Until recently there was only one but there are now four more.

1955 03 16

The Belfast Linen shop is celebrating its jubilee. 50 years ago a young man of 23 cycled into Cambridge with £100 in his pocket and an ambition to start his own business. He was Harry Nichols. He took an empty shop in Regent Street and Belfast Linen Warehouses had begun. It was not all easy going and there were times when he could not even afford to buy a new suit. It is still a family concern. Royalty, famous hotels and colleges are among his patrons and the R.101 airship on its ill-fated flight had sheets and towels supplied by the firm. 55 03 16a

1958 10 18

Millers may be the oldest music shop in Cambridge. They started trading as music and musical instrument dealers about 1886 when the late A.H. Miller joined the firm. Now they have taken over

the business of Messrs Murdoch. In the 1920s Murdoch took over Leavis and Bedwells who had a retail shop on the corner of Glisson Road before moving to Regent Street. 58 10 18

1959 03 20

Cyril Ridgeon and Son, builders' merchants gave a luncheon to inaugurate their new Regent Street showroom. The shop was formerly occupied by Messrs Murdoch's and the transformation from musical instruments to household equipment is striking. The lower ground floor is devoted to a display of bathroom suites, the ground floor to tiled fireplaces and the first to kitchen requirements. They were literally bulging at the seams at Hobson Street but the new store is comparable with something in London, guests were told. 59 03 20b

1960

1961 07 20

Herbert Robinson's premises in Regent Street were erected in the early 1930s to the design of George Banyard, a well-known architect responsible for a number of Cambridge's principal buildings. They comprise extensive showrooms, garages and workshops together with substantial office premises known as Llandaff Chambers. Now they are transferring to spacious new premises on Newmarket Road and the property is being offered for sale. The firm are retaining the electrical showrooms at 14 Regent Street 61 07 20

1961 12 27

It is going to be even colder than it was during most of the Christmas freeze-up when ice on the Cam trapped several swans in the water. On Christmas morning fire appliances went to St Giles' church where a small fire severely damaged an electric motor in the organ. They were also called to Avery's scale makers premises in Regent Street and at Joseph Lucas on Newmarket Road where pipes in the ceilings burst and flooded the premises. The Waterworks Company dealt with 30 burst pipes on Christmas Day 61 12 27 61 12 30

1962 07 05

County Council plans for a new "inner relief road" linking the Huntingdon Road-Castle Hill junction with Hyde Park Corner would cost £932,000 (£16.3m today). There would be a new bridge over the Cam at Jesus Green with an underpass at Four Lamps before the road continued to Parkside and Regent Street. This figure did not include the cost of acquiring additional land. It was needed to deal with traffic problems in Magdalene Street which is very narrow, an Inquiry was told. 62 07 05b

1962 09 15

Herbert Robinson's electrical premises with a large double frontage in Regent Street have been sold to a Messrs Skertchley, the cleaners and dyers for a price in the region of £100,000 (c£1.7m today). The firm has been selling the remaining electrical equipment at reduced prices with two-year old television sets down to £15. On two occasions the shop together with the adjacent garage and Llandaff Chambers have failed to reach the reserve price at auction 62 09 15

1962 09 26

Mrs C. Clark has been secretary of the Cambridgeshire Society for the Blind for 15 years. She supervises two homes for the blind in Cambridge as well as the blind workers' shop in Regent Street. But there is more: she deals with the loan of wireless sets – there are more than 250 at present, visits blind people in need of help and arranges parties or outings. There is a 'talking books' system and two blind undergraduates who had difficulty in finding textbooks were grateful to the people who read the information to them. Volunteers are needed to take people out for walks or help with teas at the weekend when the domestic staff are off-duty. 62 09 26

1963 10 12

Cambridge's night life is waking up! The opening of the Café Royale, Regent Street, is positive proof that Cambridge is not so dead after all. Now at last you can wine and dine amidst the splendour of

majestic elegance. The only restaurant where you can enjoy English, French, Italian, Spanish, German and Oriental cuisine. Starlit dining room, bar, dancing, resident band. Cabaret presenting stars of radio, television and stage. – Advert 63 10 12a & b

1964 01 22

The Refugee Aid Shop in Regent Street gives away its entire profits and is staffed mainly by voluntary workers. Last year it donated more than £2,000 to charity and each week sends 10 sacks of warm clothing to Oxfam. Local people have given a mass of articles including books and sometimes bicycles or prams. Clothing should be clean with at least six months wear left. Most is sold at a little above jumble sale prices with winter coats at five shillings each. Material from worn cotton dresses is salvaged and made into aprons. The worst ends up at the rag merchants 64 01 22

1964 03 04

Tesco to open store in Regent Street in former Herbert Robinson garage site – 64 03 04

1964 04 30

A Regent Street trader has lost 78 per cent of his usual turnover since parking meters were introduced, Cambridge Chamber of Commerce was told. A survey of over 30 shops showed the average loss in turnover as 45%. There should be a reduction in rateable values and compensation for businesses which are forced to close. Meters should be closed down and a return made to unilateral parking supervised by wardens. But the Parking Committee chairman said that if motorists used the meters to the full they would get most of their customers back 64 04 30

1964 09 24

Down Your Street article by Erica Dimock on Regent Street – 64 09 24, 64 10 01 [RA1.4.75]

1964 11 14

The Pagoda, a new Chinese restaurant in Regent Street offers a variety of 120 dishes served in an atmosphere of luxury at reasonable prices. The décor is modern, a six-foot golden pagoda stands just inside the door with a Buddha enshrined on the wall of the restaurant. A small rockery with a waterfall stands by the staircase to the first floor which permits dining and dancing until midnight. The menu includes succulent Chinese and traditional English meals ranging from omelettes to a ten-course meal. It will be the most modern and hygienic restaurant in East Anglia 64 11 14b

1964 11 20

The Cambridge Society for the Blind runs two homes in Glisson Road providing comfortable surroundings for 20 people and operates a small shop in Regent Street selling handicrafts made by the blind. Those registered are allowed craft materials at cost price, receive a free radio licence or get a rebate on the cost of a television licence. They also have access to the Nuffield Talking Book Library. The newly-formed Cambridge Rehabilitation Centre for the Blind provides the opportunity for meetings and discussion at the Barnwell Community Centre 64 11 20 cdef

1967 01 10

Jock Langley has sold newspapers from pitch in Regent Street for 40 years, now has to move – 67 01 10a

1970

1971 03 06

Head Post Office in Regent Street modernised – 71 03 06a

1971 08 26

John Howes cycle firm founded 1840, move into new showrooms, Regent Street – 71 08 26
Undergraduates at Downing College today continued a 24-hour occupation of the dining hall despite a warning that violent protest could close the college for the rest of this term. They are

protesting against the expulsion of two undergraduates and the rustication of a third for their part in sending an obscene leaflet to Downing college dons and undergraduates. A supported by a march last night by more than 500 students blocked Regent Street for more than an hour, with demonstrators seated in the road outside the college, 72 03 04 p11

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1972 08 04

Cambridge housewives face soaring prices this weekend as thousands of tons of vital imports lie strike-bound in Britain's ports. Fruit and meat imports are the biggest casualties of the national dock strike which entered its second week today. In Cambridge the Mill Road greengrocers, Clements have raised the price of imported Granny Smith apples from 11p to 14p a pound, while bananas are up from 8p to 11p a pound. At Tesco, in Regent Street, the manager said they had run out of bananas, but oranges and apples were still available and had not gone up. Tomatoes however had risen by about 5p to 18p a pound

1972 10 10

An 1875 bicycle made a rare appearance on the streets of Cambridge to promote Cambridge City Library's exhibition "Tourism in Cambridge" at the Small Hall of the Guildhall. Its owner, Mr J.D. Howes took it from his Regent Street shop and gave it a spin along the road before it went to the Guildhall. The third exhibition of its type to be staged by the library it puts Cambridge into its proper setting for both Fenland, county and city are covered by the various displays.

1972 10 13

At the Pagoda Chinese restaurant in Regent Street Cambridge there are over 100 items listed on the menu. The easy way out might have been to opt for Special Meal (£2.55 for two persons) but that sounds too much like totalitarianism so we sifted out portions of Sweet and Sour Pork (large 48p, small 42p), Chicken on bean sprouts (48p, 40p) and Sliced Beef, green pepper and Black Bean Sauce (55p). Fried rice (14p) went almost without saying. Cheefoo White Wine, bottled in the People's Republic was not worth the £2.15 it cost per bottle. After all this only a sense of duty led us to share a dish of lychees (25p). The meal cost us £6.57 for two, but if you did not fall for the "wine of the country" bit, it would be very good value

1973 12 24

Shoppers in Cambridge defied the gloom of crisis-torn Britain and were out in force to do their last-minute Christmas shopping. At Woolworth's in Sidney Street the manager said: "People are determined to enjoy Christmas despite the gloom and doom". Tesco, in Regent Street, said they were fairly busy. The general manager of Joshua Taylor said that trade was about 20% up compared with last year. 73 12 24

1975 06 11

The much-criticised second stage of Cambridge city council's central area traffic experiment has been abandoned and traffic flow systems introduced five weeks ago withdrawn. This means there is again two-way traffic in Regent Street, Parkside, Emmanuel Road and Short Street. Through traffic is still banned along parts of St Andrew's Street, Sidney Street & King's Parade. City police said many motorists were confused by the changes which it was improving impossible to enforce. Long traffic queues had built up at major junctions since the start of the experiment which brought traffic chaos to the city

1975 12 04

Regent Street rebuilding, p8

1976 04 05

A new branch of Lloyd's Bank is due to open on the corner of Regent Street and Gonville Place, Cambridge. It will be the first entirely new branch of Lloyds opened in the city since 1964, when a branch was set out at Cherry Hinton. Five cashier positions have been provided inside the bank, together with a cash dispenser for quick service.

1977 07 13

A group of Cambridge residents have started a legal battle to stop buses using the narrow, congested Parker Street to reach the city's Drummer Street bus station. They are trying to force four major bus companies to use an alternative route via Emmanuel Street and Regent Street. The leader of the objectors said: "Parker Street is fit only for local traffic, being narrow and with houses on each side. At the moment the pollution is disgusting. You cannot open a window and the noise is above acceptable limits". The Eastern Counties traffic manager said: "Buses represent only a tiny proportion of the heavy traffic using the street, so why we are being picked on I don't know"

1977 12 22

Cambridge is not short of record shops, so what chance has another one got? The answer, says Andy Gray, is plenty. His latest shop "The Beat Goes On" is something out of the ordinary in that it caters for those interested in "golden oldies" and New Wave records. They specialise in records up to the 1970s and have on display portraits of "The Jam" who opened the shop on Friday. The new shop in Regent Street supplements the premises opened in Mill Road three years ago and Andy's Record Stall on Cambridge market which is still a gathering place for music lovers.

1978 02 23

Shopping Guide decided to investigate the cost of a cup of tea in Cambridge snack bars. Best value for money was The Whim in Trinity Street where a pot of tea costs 15p and with a jug of hot water and plenty of milk you can get three cups for your money. Worst was the tea and coffee counter at the Arts Theatre Roof Garden where you pay 15p for one cup. Thornhills in Regent Street was the best for choice as you can have a cup (8p) or pot (18p) whilst at the Coffee Pot in Green Street you pay 20p for a pot that held four cups, if you had the thirst to match it. Joshua Taylor is the only department store which has a coffee or tea shop but has a lunch-time minimum charge.

1978 04 06

Quietly and without fuss our daily bread got dearer this week, with the news that the big three bakeries were adding 2p to the cost of a "standard" sliced and wrapped loaf, bringing the cost up to 28½ p. In Cambridge the price of farmhouse loaves is left to the baker. Bridgeman Bros of Norfolk Street charge 30½ p for a very crusty, tasty and attractive loaf; Tylers of Mill Road charge 30p, & E.J. How and Godfreys of Regent Street 29p. The most expensive are Dixon's of Fitzroy Street & Maskell's of Victoria Road who charge 31p for a pale golden, high, crusty, loaf.

1978 11 04

A wave of panic buying hit shops as housewives rushed to buy bread a full three days before a threatened national bakers' strike is due to start. Sainsbury's store in Coldham's Lane Cambridge has rationed people to just two loaves and How's bakery in Mill Road said that all stocks were sold out by lunchtime. A Tesco in Regent Street exceptionally heavy buying emptied the shop of bread by mid-morning. Anxious shoppers out to stock up their freezers with loaves were described as "greedy" by shopkeepers. The strike is not yet a certainty and independent bakeries are not involved.

1979 07 07

Cambridge's oldest taxi driver Ernie Zarattini has taken his final fare – aged 80. And he has disclosed some of the cheeky goings-on he has witness during 39 years as a cab driver. On one occasion he picked up a couple who wanted to go to Regent Street. "Suddenly I saw them misconducting

themselves on the floor of the cab. I said 'Not for half-a-crown you don't' and flung them out", he said. Fares used to be eight pence – old money – for the first mile and tuppence-a-mile after that, but now customers have to pay 45p for the first three-quarters of a mile and 25p for every one-sixth of a mile after that.

1979 10 06

Tesco's superstore at Bar Hill is to open on Mondays following a switch to six-day trading by Sainsbury's supermarkets. The store says that it was demand from customers living in the local community which had led to the move: "Since we have been here we have tried to blend in with the community", said their Public Relations Director. "We really owe it to everyone here to provide the service they want". Tesco's store in Regent Street Cambridge already opens on Mondays.

1979 12 18

Regent Street plans, p17

1980

1980 12 11

The time taken to get through supermarket check-outs varies; at 6pm on a Thursday evening Tesco's Regent Street store, Cambridge was fairly busy and five out of the seven checkouts were in operation; it took nine minutes to get through. But at their Bar Hill store we queued for 21 minutes. At Bishop's, Arbury Court, paying by cheque meant the cashier had to get it approved by her colleague, which delayed the neighbouring queue. 80 12 11a & b

1982 07 22

A survey of egg and tomato sandwiches found that those from Marks and Spencer (55p) had the edge for moisture and taste with Donks of Regent Street top for value at 32p. Cornucopia ran them a close second while Thornhills were biggest value for money, although the bread was too dry. But Travellers Fare from the station buffet were the dearest and least inspiring. They could not rise to an egg and tomato sandwich and it came in a wrapping that was fiddly to open. 82 07 22

1982 07 29

The Cambridge Blind Shop in Regent Street is to close, ending a tradition that goes back 50 years. Its original purpose was to provide an outlet for the work of local blind people who relied on basket-making, chair-caning or knitting for an income. Today the same necessity does not really exist and the number of local craftsmen has dwindled, making the shop no longer viable. 82 07 29

1983 03 04

Well-known Cambridge character and critic of some of the modern city architecture, Dr Hugh Plommer, has died while giving a lecture in London. He was a prolific writer – in a recent letter to the News he described newly-designed buildings in Regent Street as looking "as if they came out of an erratic computer and probably did". He described the new University Centre as "a converted multi-storey car park and Churchill College as "if it stood some siege by Cromwell's New Model Army". 83 03 04 p16

1983 04 26

The County Council has been urging Cambridge councillors to provide more city centre parking space. They say 1,000 extra parking spaces are needed. Now they have suggested six sites: a 250-space extension to the present Lion Yard multi-deck, land behind Telephone House in Regent Street-Park Terrace (220 spaces on a four-deck park), the old Addenbrooke's Hospital site (250 spaces), land behind Shire Hall (450 spaces on a three-deck park), Saxon Street (480) and Adam and Eve Street (460 spaces). 83 04 26 p5

1983 09 21

Tesco is to close its Cambridge Regent Street supermarket. The store, which opened in 1964, has been left behind by developments in supermarket design. Managers now consider it too small – it is 11,000 square feet as compared to 30,000 at Bar Hill – and there is no provision for car parking. It would need a major refit to bring it up to modern standards and this could not be justified. 83 09 21 p16 83 09 22 p5

1984 12 19

Devi Agarwala was penniless when he first moved to England in 1950 but became one of Cambridge's best-known business men. He opened the city's first Indian restaurant, the Kismet in Northampton Street, and the Harlequin club and casino in Regent Street as well as an International Centre and language school. He was a member of the Pentacle Magic Club and organised a three-day All-India Magic Conference which had to be cancelled due to the murder of India's Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Ghandi. 84 12 19

1985 04 10

Cambridge Mortgage Centre has opened in Regent Street. The idea of Cambridge Insurance, a firm of brokers who offer pensions, investment and life policies, it will help people find a mortgage and advise which payment suits the applicant best. The staff will make sure clients pay the lowest rate possible: it is possible for someone with a £30,000 mortgage to be paying around 15 per cent or even less 85 04 10

1985 11 22

Sally Ann's, Cambridge Salvation Army's highly successful charity shop set up five years ago, is now open for business at its new home on the site of the former Fine Fare supermarket in Mill Road, having moved from the Tesco shop in Regent Street. It sells everything from bric-a-brac to books but also has second-hand furniture such as wardrobes, dressers, beds and three-piece suites. These can be used to assist 'distress cases' where a family urgently needs furniture. About 100 volunteers price the items, launder and iron the clothes and operate a delivery service but more are desperately needed to keep up with all the jobs that need doing. 85 11 22b

1987 11 05

Vision Park, the controversial office and high-tech development in Histon, has gained a major first tenant which suggests that the developers were right in thinking Histon was an acceptable business location. Construction of a second phase on the former Chivers site across Station Road started in August. Barclays Bank is taking half of the first completed building to replace their head office above the bank in Bene't Street. The move follows Lloyds Bank's decision to take a large headquarters block at Castle Park, Shire Hall and Midland's move of its management team to Parkers House in Regent Street. 87 11 05b